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## **Guidelines, Rules & Regulations**



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## Introduction

The USPSF and IPSAF scoring system is broken down into two parts: the Artistic Section, and the Execution Section. Athletes will be judged in both sections during their routines; therefore the athlete who shows the highest levels of both artistry and execution will be awarded the most points as a final score. The final score is a combination of the artistic section, and the technical and execution section. In addition to those two sections athletes will also be scored on appreciated elements and originality. It is important that the athlete incorporate all sections into their routine to be awarded the most points. This scoring system encourages and promotes a balance of highly artistic and technically sound athletes.

For the competitive year 2017, all athletes including doubles need to use BOTH static and spinning poles. See rules and regulations on configuration.

Listed is a short summary of what judges will be looking for in an athlete's routine as a whole. A detailed description of the scored sections is included in this document to enable athletes to organize a performance and earn the highest score.

- Theme/Concept
- Overall Choreography
- Originality
- Emotional and Artistic Expression
- Costume, Hair and Make-up
- Floor Work
- Perfection of Moves
- Lines and Flexibility
- Dynamic/Strength
- Musicality

***Please see rules and regulations for restrictions on music, hair, make-up, costumes, props and grip aids. Note: Athletes will be penalized for not adhering to the USPSF and IPSAF rules and regulations along with the Ethical Code of Conduct. See penalties and sanctions on page 13 for more details.***

## Athlete Requirements

### All athletes must meet the following conditions:

1. Minimum age of all athletes is 10 years old.
2. Athletes must have a valid ID document (Passport, ID card etc...)
3. Minors will have to show a legal guardian's ID for authorization.
4. Athletes must prove that they have health insurance valid through the competition date.
5. All competitors **MUST** know the rules and regulations of this competition and sign that they have read and understand all rules.
6. Athletes are responsible for printing out the Rules and Regulations. USPSF will not provide hard copies.
7. Before and during the entire competition contestants are not allowed to do any of the following: drink alcohol, take or use any substance that alters mind consciousness, take/use any forbidden stimulants such as steroids etc. (any violation of these rules will immediately disqualify the contestant).
8. **ALL registration and video fees are non-refundable**, regardless of ANY medical issues or otherwise that may arise after the decision to apply has been made. Athletes will sign that they understand this rule regarding the fees.
9. Athletes agree to pay \$500.00 if they decide to not compete without a medical reason. Medical excuses are only approved by a licensed medical doctor (MD). (NO chiropractors, acupuncture practitioners, etc.). Athletes will not be subject to any fine if disqualified from the event on the day of the competition.
10. Athletes may not train with or talk to judges about the competition after they have been selected. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification.
11. Only coaches or persons who have membership in USPSF may attend pole testing, unless the

athlete is under 18. If the athlete is under the age of 18, the athlete must be accompanied by one (1) legal guardian or parent. No additional family members will be allowed.

## Video Requirements

- Each athlete must send a YouTube or Vimeo link for the submission video. No direct links or files will be accepted. Must be public or unlisted. No private links accepted.
- Video must be well lit, with performer and poles easily visible.
- Applicants are required to use two poles: 1 static and 1 spin, and must demonstrate combinations on both.
- Video must not include or show any other person than the applicant.
- Video length must be between 2-2:30 minutes long.
- Video cannot be edited in any way: it must show continuous dance performance of the applicant (e.g.: may not fade in from one trick and out to another).
- Video must be upright for viewing – not sideways.
- The video must demonstrate the athlete's capacity to present tricks, spins, strength and flexibility movements, as well as the capacity to execute trick combinations; however, the video must, above all, show the artistic sense of the athlete.
- Athletes may send video from a previous performance if it meets the above criteria.
- USPSF Pole Art does not take responsibility for copyright issues and whatever claims made against the video will be passed on to the applicant.
- All videos must include the above requirements to be considered eligible for the final competition round.

## Theme/Concept

Please send us the theme or concept of your intended routine at time of applications. Please feel free to send inspirational photos, videos, and/or storyline of your theme/concept. This should be a concise, but well-thought-out description of the character or story that you would like to portray on stage. If you are selected, any changes to your theme must be approved by USPSF. See important dates and deadline section.

The USPSF will only accept one theme/concept and any duplicates or similar concepts will need to be resubmitted. This is on a first come, first served basis.

## Divisions – Elite & Semi-Pro

### Women International Elite (Ages 18 – 39)

- Pole dancing for 2+ years
- Previously competed in any elite competitions
- Won a Pole Art competition in any semi-pro category or equivalent

### Men International Elite (Ages 18 – 39)

- Pole dancing for 2+ years
- Previously competed in any elite competitions
- Won a Pole Art competition in any semi-pro category or equivalent

### Doubles International Elite (Ages 10 - 65+)

- Pole dancing for 2+ years
- Pairs can be: man & woman, woman & woman, man & man
- Won a Pole Art competition in any semi-pro category or equivalent (either partner, as a pair or separate)

### Masters International Elite (Ages 40 +\*)

- Pole dancing for 2+ years
  - Previously competed in any elite competitions
  - Won a Pole Art Competition in any semi-pro category or equivalent
- \*Depending on applications we will have both a men & women's category.*

### Juniors International Elite (Ages 10-17)

- Pole dancing for 2+ years

- Must be accompanied by a legal guardian or parent

### **Women International Semi-Pro (Ages 18 – 65+)**

- Pole dancing for 2+ years.
- Competed in a semi pro competition but have never won (amateur category placement not counted)

### **Men International Semi-Pro (Ages 18 – 65+)**

- Pole dancing for 2+ years
- Competed in a semi pro competition but have never won (amateur category placement not counted)

**The USPSF reserves the right to move competitors from a category to another if that athlete is better qualified for that other category. Athletes that have previously competed at a higher level or division may not apply for a lower division with the USPSF.**

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Conduct:**

- Athletes must engage in proper conduct at all times while involved in the competition.
- No nudity, no G-strings or thongs. Violation of this requirement will lead to immediate disqualification.
- No vulgar spoken or body language, or defamation of other contestants is permitted, either on stage or backstage.
- The choreography should not show indecent or erotic connotations or gestures. No touching or rubbing intimate body parts. No excessive booty shaking.
- Athletes may not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any time during the competition.
- Athletes agree to submit required documents, music, costumes and payment on time. Failure to do so will result in points deducted from the overall score or disqualification.
- Athletes agree that all private correspondence will be by email. Each athlete is responsible for checking his/her email in a timely manner and for providing USPSF his/her correct email address. Submit all inquiries to [athletechair@usapolesports.org](mailto:athletechair@usapolesports.org)
- Group announcements will be made via email and the private Facebook group page. Group

page link will be provided once you are confirmed as a finalist.

- Failure to check email or the private Facebook group is not an excuse for missing deadlines or announcements.
- **Violation of any of these is grounds for either disqualification or deduction of points.**

## Dress Code

- Costumes and themed outfits are highly encouraged.
- Removal of clothing down to nudity, g-string or thong is forbidden. However, it is allowed to remove parts of the costume such as a coat, mask, jacket, or skirt as long as the contestant remains properly dressed. Removal of clothing must be submitted and approved by the USPSF.
- Men are allowed to be bare-chested.
- No nudity is allowed. If displayed, athletes will not be allowed to continue performing and will immediately be disqualified and banned from any further competitions.
- Allowed footwear: dancing/sport shoes (ballet, jazz, gymnastic), heels (no platforms).
- Gloves are not allowed unless during the registration contestants have shown proper documents from doctor with statement that he/she has hyperhidrosis.
- Shorts must cover the gluteal fold and tops must cover the breasts. String bikinis with transparency on the intimate parts are strictly forbidden.
- No grip products will be allowed on the pole. Athletes may use products such as Dry Hands, Mighty Grip, and Itac on the body only.
- Costumes and jewelry that will damage the pole or create an unsafe performance are not permitted.
- Temporary tattoos/body paint: henna tattoos, body art, makeup is allowed as long as it doesn't dirty other contestants, stage or dressing area and poles. All body art must be non-latex.
- No weapons, liquids, fire, sand, glitter, glass, or sharp objects are allowed to be used.
- Athletes will appear in his/her exact costume at the award ceremony.
- Judges and organizers can disqualify a candidate or impose a point penalty if there is a violation of the dress code of the competition.

## Music

- Competition music must be sent in MP3 format with the author, title of the song, and work ID from ASCAP or BMI. If your song is a mix or mash up, you need to submit the info for each song.

To locate BMI work ID: <http://www.bmi.com/search>

To locate ASCAP work ID: <https://mobile.ascap.com/aceclient/AceWeb/>



- Radio edits only. No explicit lyrics.
- Contestants are responsible for the correct settings of the track. USPSF cannot edit audio files, adjust volume or background noise from file. Music can be a mixture of different songs and may contain lyrics.
- If two or more contestants choose the same music, the contestant who sent it in first (date and time) gets the privilege to use it; the other contestant must change. You will not be allowed to use the same song even if it is mixed with other tracks.
- Original mixes or combination of several songs is allowed.
- On the day of the competition, athletes must provide organizers with a USB key of their music in MP3 format labeled with “NAME SURNAME – CATEGORY – USPSF Pole Art 2017”. Athletes are responsible for picking up their USB key directly after the competition if they want it back. USB keys will not be mailed back to athletes.

**Length of the music for the competition:****Semi-Pro:** between 2:50 min and 3:00 min MAXIMUM**Elite:** between 3:30 min and 4:00 min MAXIMUM**Choreography:**

The choreography should demonstrate a high level of creativity by producing or using original and innovative ideas to create their routine. Choreography should include the athlete’s artistic expression and interpretation to convey emotion through movement. The performance should be engaging, entertaining and the athlete should appear confident along with a high level of stage presence in all aspects of their performance. The choreography should reflect the theme/concept and display a unique style and original performance.

**Props****All props must be approved by USPSF by March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.****Prohibited:**

- Weapons of any kind
- Liquids of any kind
- Glass
- Sand/ Glitter
- Sharp implements of any kind (knives, scissors, etc)

- Fire
- Props may not leave a residue or mess onstage

**Props should be able to be removed from stage within 2 minutes of performance competition.**

## Photography & Video

- The contestants explicitly agree that all footage and photos can be used by USPSF for promotional, advertising and commercial purposes indefinitely.
- All photo/video material will remain the property of Pole Art America and the USPSF indefinitely.
- The competitors must be available for a photo shoot and possible media interviews before and after the competition.

## Fees:

Registration is when you submit to be part of Pole Art America 2017.

- Registration fee: Elite \$130 – Doubles \$260 – Semi Pro \$80
- All fees must be paid in full at time of registration.
- **Fees must be sent via PayPal and are NON-REFUNDABLE. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## JUDGING

The maximum score a competitor can be awarded is 100 points total.

Competitors can also receive a maximum of 30 points for penalties. The chart below explains each scoring section in detail.

Artistic Section	Max Points
Originality of Character and Stage Performance	10 Points
Choreography of the Entire Performance	10 Points
Emotional and Artistic Expression	10 Points
Costumes, Hair & Make-up	10 Points
Floor Work Choreography	10 Points
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>50 Points</b>

## **ARTISTIC SECTION**

Capacity of expression, stage presence, fluidity of transitions, floor work, costume,-music, and consistency of the choreography. The routine should be well balanced with flexibility tricks, strength tricks, spins and dynamic movements and an equal use of the poles.

## **MUSICALITY**

- Reaction of the public: interactions with the audience, applauses, laughter, emotion
- Intensity and dynamic elements: alternation of intensive and quiet moments in the music and in the dance.
- Costume should correspond to the performance and to the theme of the choreography.
- "Erotic" or explicit movements are strictly forbidden. Sensual movements are authorized but without excess or abuse. It has to remain discreet and respectful, otherwise the participant will be penalized in the scoring and potentially disqualified.

## **ORIGINALITY**

The judges are looking for an original performance in the technical elements, the choreography, and in the artistic approach of the performance. The body language, costume, and direction have to clearly highlight, to both the audience and the judges, the story or theme of the routine.

New ideas concerning the theme, music, costumes and the dancing world in general will be particularly appreciated as well as the surprise generated by the audience. Feel free to express yourself and to let your personality shine on stage.

## **APPRECIATED ELEMENTS**

- Routines in which participants will show a good balance between strength and flexibility.
- Clean tricks, transitions and poses as well as fluid movements.
- Original story-telling on stage, stage presence, and artistic expression.
- The choreography should be balanced between static pole and spinning pole as well as floor work.

<b>Technical &amp; Execution Section</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
Mastery of Technique and Movement - Clean Start & Finish of Combinations, Spins & Elements	10 Points
Lines & Flexibility	10 Points
Strength & Dynamic Movement	10 Points
Choreography & Elements Performed off the Pole	10 Points
Musical Executions of Elements - Musicality	10 Points
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>50 Points</b>

## Technical & Execution Section

A high level of technique should be clearly demonstrated throughout the performance. This includes mastery of movement on and off the pole, strength, flexibility, versatility, transitions, combinations, spins, and possess. The athlete should demonstrate a high level of agility as well as mastery of momentum on static and spinning pole. The overall technical score will take into consideration the level of difficulty of the movements as well as the variety and balance of both strength and flexibility movement. The routine should reflect the tempo of the music in a seamless and fluid manner. Original and new movements will be particularly noted.

### EXECUTION

A perfect execution will include: a flawless technique of moves, spins, and climbs, as well as clean transitions. Clean lines throughout movement should also be displayed, while demonstrating grace, fluid movement and transitions. The scoring will reflect the overall combination of dance, acrobatics, and originality.

<b>Penalties</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
Costume Malfunctions	-5 Points
Slips & Falls	-5 Points
Provocative or Inappropriate Movement	-5 Points
Unsafe Moves or Tricks Beyond Ability	-10 Points
Failure to Submit Required Documents and Information on Time	-5 Points
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>30 Points</b>

**Penalties will be given per infraction equal to 1 point. If you fall from the apparatus, the maximum five (5) points will be deducted.**

### **STRICTLY FORBIDDEN / ATHLETE SANCTIONS**

- Nudity, G-strings, thongs, and pasties.
- Inappropriate costumes.
- Exposing, touching, and/or caressing the private parts of the body, breasts and thighs.
- An especially erotic or vulgar expression, to make sexual references during the choreography.
- Expressing racist behaviors, obvious signs of intolerance or harmful expressions to the spirit of the competition, audience or the judges.
- Touching the truss in any form. Points will be deducted or the athlete may be disqualified
- Any athlete found to be in possession of alcohol, or under the influence of any controlled substance will be immediately disqualified and removed from the premises. They athlete will also be sanctioned and possibly banned from future USPSF Competitions.
- Defamation, whether public, private or On-line of fellow competitors, judges, the USPSF, or the IPSAF will not be tolerated. This behavior is grounds for immediately disqualification and future sanctions by the USPSF.

### **The performance can be repeated:**

- If any technical problems occurred not caused by the competitor.
- If any technical problems with the music occurred.
- If competitor stopped because of technical problems with the poles not caused by him/her.

**Feedback will be provided upon request.**

***The decision of the judges is final.***



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The competitor with the highest number of points will win 1<sup>st</sup> place, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awarded in descending order.

The USPSF reserves the right to stop a performance at any time if they feel the competitor is showing a health or safety concern or has violated any rules or regulations listed above.

## **Staging:**

### **Poles**

Athletes will be performing on two (2) 12 foot tall brass Lupit Poles. There will be approximately 8-9 feet between the poles. The poles will be set to both static and spin. Stage right pole will be static and stage left pole will be spin.

### **Lighting**

Athletes will be provided with a form to fill out for lighting specifics. **This form must be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**

## **Deadlines & Important Dates**

### **Application, Video & Fees Submission:**

Opens on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Submissions close on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 11:59pm EST.

**Notification of Finalists:** December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Music, Lighting, and Props:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Pole Art America Championships:** Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **Contact Info:**

Any questions, comments, concerns, and all required athlete submission materials/info must be sent to:

**AthleteChair@usapolesports.org**